

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/556,822

Applicant(s)

CHEZZI ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Erica E. Cadugan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to interview of November 12, 2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20080318</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Eric Jensen on November 12, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A bead trimmer [with a tool extraction system, preferably used] for use [used] in a production line of elements bearing longitudinal weld beads (21) in which one of the [an] elements slides along a direction which is parallel to a longitudinal axis (x) thereof, wherein [it] the bead trimmer comprises

a tool-bearing [turret] member (2) for removably fixing a bead-trimmer tool (30), which [turret] member (2) is supported by means for translating the [turret] member (2) on command according to at least one vertical direction (z) and at least one horizontal direction (y) which at least one horizontal direction (y) is [transversal] transverse with respect to the longitudinal axis (x) between an internal working position and an external tool-changing position, with a run which is sufficient to extract the [turret] member (2) from a working zone thereof;

wherein the means for translating comprise a first slide (3) to which the tool-bearing member (2) is associated, the first slide (3) being slidable along the at least one horizontal direction (y) between the internal working position, in which the tool (30) is aligned with the

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weld bead (21), and the external tool-changing position, in which the tool (30) is not aligned with the weld bead (21);

the first slide being associated to an intermediate slide (34) and being configured so as to be slidable in the at least one horizontal direction (y) relative to the intermediate slide (34), which intermediate slide (34) is associated to a second slide (4) which is vertically slidable on a bearing structure (40) along the at least one vertical direction (z) between a lower position, in which the tool (30) is in contact with the weld bead (21), and a raised position, in which the tool (30) is distanced from the weld bead (21);

wherein the intermediate slide (34) is mobile, via a calibration mechanism, along the at least one horizontal direction (y) with respect to the second slide (4) in order to enable a centering of the tool (30) with respect to the weld bead (21).

2 (Currently Amended). The bead trimmer of claim 1, wherein the longitudinal axis of the element is horizontal [means for translating comprise a first slide (3), to which the turret (2) is associated; the first slide (3) being slidable along a horizontal direction (y) between the internal working position, in which the tool (30) is aligned with the weld bead (21) and the external tool-changing position, in which the tool (30) is not aligned with the weld bead (21), the first slide (3) being associated to the intermediate slide (34) which is associated to a second slide (4) which is vertically slidable on a bearing structure (40) along the vertical direction (z) between a lower position, in which the tool (30) is in contact with the weld bead (21) and a raised position, in which the tool (30) is distanced from the weld bead (21), the intermediate slide (34) being mobile along the horizontal direction (y) with respect to the second slide (4) in order to enable a correct centring of the tool (30) with respect to the weld bead (21)].

3 (Currently Amended). The bead trimmer of claim 1, wherein the first slide (3) comprises an elongate portion of a guide (5), vertically gripped between at least three wheels (6), axes of rotation of which wheels (6) are parallel to the longitudinal axis (x), the at least three wheels (6) being associated to the intermediate slide (34) and being conformed in such a way as to prevent the [intermediate] first slide [(34)] (3) from displacing along the [horizontal] longitudinal direction [(y)] (x), and along the at least one vertical direction (z) relative to the intermediate slide (34), the first slide (3) being translatable along the at least one horizontal direction (y) by means of a first actuator cylinder (7) which exhibits a stem connected to the first slide (3) and a body connected to the intermediate slide (34).

4 (Currently Amended). The bead trimmer of claim [2] 3, wherein the wheels (6) are mounted on supports having elastic means predisposed to enable the wheels (6) to move along a rotation axis thereof.

5 (Currently Amended). The bead trimmer of claim 1, wherein the second slide (4) is vertically slidable between two parallel guides (8) by means of an [second] actuator cylinder (9) operatively arranged between the second slide (4) and a vertical calibration mechanism (15) which is operatively arranged between the [second] actuator cylinder (9) and a portion of the bearing structure (40).

6 (Currently Amended). The bead trimmer of claim 1, wherein the [intermediate slide (34)] is mobile along the horizontal direction (y) with respect to the second slide (4) by means of a] calibration mechanism (16) is in the form of a screw-nut mechanism [which enables a correct centring of the tool (30) with respect to the weld bead (21)].

7 (Currently Amended). The bead trimmer of claim 1, wherein the first slide (3) is blockable with respect to the intermediate slide (34) when the first slide (3) is in [a] the internal position, by means of a blocking device (11) comprising a blocking and unblocking cylinder (12) arranged between the intermediate slide (34) and the first slide (3), a stem of which cylinder (12) exhibits a flange (17) predisposed to operate internally of a T-shaped hollow afforded on the first slide (3), the blocking and unblocking cylinder (12) being predisposed in a rest position thereof to exert a traction force, by means of elastic means, on the first slide (3) and to pull the first [guide] slide (3) into contact with the intermediate slide (34), and, when activated, to exert a force which is opposed to the force exerted by the elastic means and to free the first slide (3) from contact with the intermediate slide (34).

8 (Currently Amended). The bead trimmer of claim [6] 7, wherein the blocking and unblocking cylinder (12) operates in collaboration with a horizontal sliding guide (13) associated to the intermediate slide (34), which sliding guide (13) exhibits, in [transversal] transverse section, a wedge shape and which is predisposed to insert in a channel shaped accordingly thereto and afforded on the first slide (3), when the blocking and unblocking cylinder (12) is in [a] the rest position thereof, the sliding guide (13) being conformed and predisposed to define a reference with respect to a vertical direction for the [turret] tool-bearing member (2).

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

U.S. Pat. No. 5,131,136 to Uchida is considered to be a representative example of the closest prior art of record as set forth in independent claim 1. Uchida was described in detail in the Office Action mailed August 19, 2008. Suffice it to say, Uchida does not teach that the "first slide" 15 that is "associated to" an "intermediate slide" 16 is "configured so as to be slidable in

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the at least one horizontal direction relative to the intermediate slide”, noting that first slide 15 does not move horizontally relative to the intermediate slide 16 (that is associated to a second vertically movable slide) 34.

Also, there is no combinable teaching in the prior art of record that would reasonably and absent impermissible hindsight motivate one having ordinary skill in the art to so modify the teachings of Uchida, and thus, for at least the foregoing reasoning, Uchida does not render obvious the present invention as set forth in independent claim 1.

The aforescribed prior art being representative of the closest prior art of record, for at least the foregoing reasoning, the prior art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the present invention as set forth in independent claim 1.

It is further noted that the previous drawing objections, as well as the previous rejections under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs, are overcome by the above amendment.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erica E. Cadugan whose telephone number is (571) 272-4474.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., alternate Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on (571) 272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Erica E Cadugan/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3722

eec
November 12, 2008